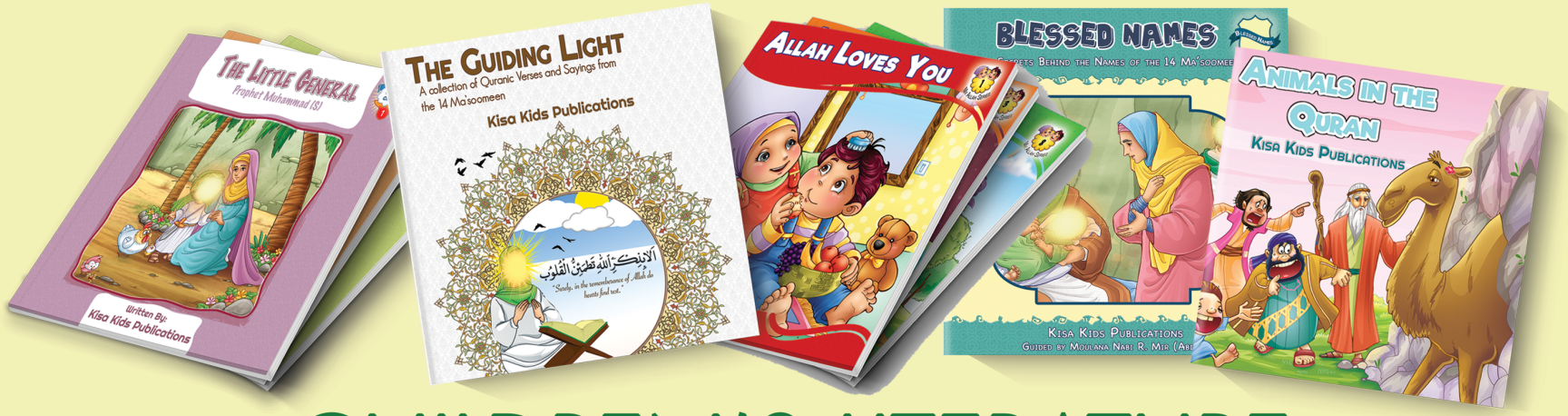
Arbaeen Project Booklet

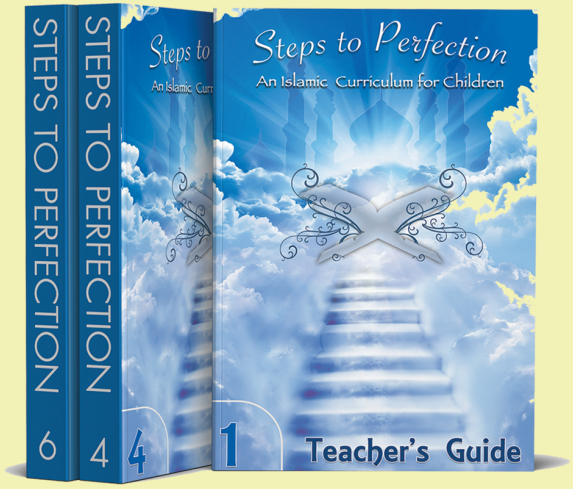
ARBAEEN 1439 | 2017

AL-KISA FOUNDATION

UNDER THE CLOAK OF GUIDANCE AND MERCY



CHILDREN'S LITERATURE



ISLAMIC CURRICULUM

ISLAMIC PROJECTS

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Project #1: Scene of Karbala

Objective: Students will use the materials provided to reconstruct the scene of Karbala. The purpose is to recap and understand the motive of Imam Husain (A)'s mission.

Ages: 5+

Time: 40 minutes

Materials:

- Sandpaper
- Felt pieces, pre-cut (tents, river, sun, horses/camels, trees)
- Elmer's glue

Procedure:

1. Prior to the lesson, cut out tents, rivers, suns, horses, camels, and trees from the felt.
2. SAY: Does anyone know why we're here today? (Wait for students to answer that it is Arbaeen.)
3. SAY: Yes, we are here to commemorate Arbaeen. Does anyone know what Arbaeen is? (Wait for answers)
4. SAY: That's right, Arbaeen marks the 40th day after the day of Ashura. Who can remind us what happened 40 days ago on Ashura? (Wait for answers)
5. SAY: That's right. Imam Husain (A), along with his family and friends, were martyred in Karbala. Today, we want to remember Imam Husain (A) and why he went to Karbala. Can anyone think of reasons? (As students share answers, write them on the board.)
6. SAY: You see, at this time, a lot of Muslim were not practicing true Islam. People had forgotten about the rules of Islam, and they didn't know things they should know. They had even forgotten how important the family of the Prophet was! They didn't know what to believe or who to follow. People thought what was right was wrong, and what was wrong was right. This is because the evil ruler, Yazid, had misled the people and was spreading lies and rumors. So, Imam Husain (A) had no choice but to rise up against Yazid. He took his family and friends and went to Karbala, and he stood against the bad people. He went to show them the truth, hoping to awaken their hearts. After Imam Husain (A) was killed, people began to wake up and notice what the bad guys were doing. They started to find the truth. It has been more than 1,300 years since the day of Ashura, and every year, we still remember Imam Husain (A) and his mission. It is because of the event of Karbala that we have the true Islam that we have today. This is why we remember Imam Husain (A) year after year.
7. SAY: Today, we will be making our very own scene of Karbala to remind ourselves what happened.
8. At this time, give each child a piece of sandpaper. Show children the different felt pieces, and introduce what they are. Use the following picture as a guide to help students create their own scenes using the felt pieces:

Project #2: What Happened After Karbala?

Objective: Students will compile symbolic pieces of post-Karbala events and will place them in their memory bag to remember the events post-Karbala.

Ages: 6+

Time: 40 minutes

Materials:

- Cloth bag
- Wooden heart (with Alhamdulillah written on it)
- Wooden star
- Toy horse
- Small glass bottle filled with sand with cork stop (or turbah)
- Flag
- Pictures of shrines of Sayyidah Zaynab (A) and Sayyidah Ruqayya (A)
- Alternatively: Use cut-outs of above items attached template

Procedure:

1. SAY: We've all heard what happened in Karbala on the Day of Ashura. But does anyone know what happened after Karbala? (Wait for answers.)
2. SAY: Where did the family and friends of Imam Husain (A) go? Did they walk far? Do you know where they walked to? They walked from Karbala to Kufa to Shaam. Today, when you want to go from Karbala to Shaam, you take a flight, and this flight is about 1 hours. So, for you to walk, it would take almost two weeks!!! This is not an easy walk. The evil oppressors took them to different cities to show the people what they did to the family of Prophet Muhammad (S). There was a long journey. The children and women were very tired and sad after what happened, but they knew that Allah take care of them.
3. SAY: I have in my hand a mystery memory bag. In this are different items that remind us of what happened to the family and children of Imam Husain (A) after Karbala. I'm going to pass this bag around, and each person can take a turn pulling out one item. Then, tell us what you think this item symbolizes or stands fod.
4. Pass out the bag. Use the following descriptions to add on to children's thoughts and ideas:
   a. Heart/Qalb: This heart represents having Sabr/patience & tawakkul/trust & hope in Allah in your heart. The bad people of Yazid's army hurt Imam Husain's (A) family very much. But Imam Husain's family knew in their heart that this is part of their mission and that this is what Allah wanted. When the bad guys made fun of them, Sayyida Zaynab (A) said, "We did not see anything but beauty" because she saw how beautiful God's plan is. She knew this difficulty would bring a lot of people to Islam for the rest of time. Because they were patient & trusted Allah's plan, the people began to see what is right and what is wrong.
   b. Horse: After Karbala, the oppressors took the children and women and walked through the desert. The oppressors sat on horses while everyone walked a very long way in the hot sun. The children and women had a lot of Sabr. They were very patient. Sayyidah

Zaynab and Imam Zayn ul-Abideen (A) protected everyone. They showed them that no matter what happens, you should have tawakkul in Allah. Do you know what tawakkul means? It means to trust Allah and put ALL of your hope in Him & only Him. Does anyone want to tell us how they will have tawakkul in Allah?

c. Star: Do you know who Imam Husain's (A) father is? (Wait for answers.) Yes, it is Imam Ali (A)! Imam Ali (A) once said, "In the darkest nights, the stars shine more brightly." You see, we can't see stars during the day, but as it becomes night, we're able to see them. In fact, the darker it is, the brighter the stars shine! When the children in Karbala had a hard time, and it felt like everything was dark around them, they would look up at the bright stars and remember this. These beautiful stars gave them comfort, and they remembered that they had to trust Allah. Because of their patience and tawakkul (trust in Allah), their hearts shined like bright, bright stars in the darkness around them. Did you know that when Sayyidah Fatimah (A) prayed, and the angels in the heaven looked at her, they saw a very bright light, like a star? If you practice doing everything for Allah, then your heart will be bright like a shining star, too! Take the heart and star and place them over one another symbolically so the kids connect the concept.
d. Flag: After the death of Imam Husain (A), do you know who carried the flag of Islam? Sayyidah Zaynab and the rest of the women. They told everyone what happened in Karbala. As Muslims living in the west, we all carry the flag of Islam. Our hijabs and our names show people that we are Muslim. Therefore, it's important that we carry this flag well. How can we do this? By having great akhlaq, helping others, and following the example of Sayyida Zaynab.
e. Sand in a bottle (or turbah): These are like the sands of Karbala. Did you know that the sand of Karbala is special? This sand, called Turbat al-Husaini, has a special cure in it, as our Imams have told us. This is also what we perform sajdah on.
f. Photos of shrines: Did you know that you can visit the graves of Imam Husain (A) and the family of Imam Husain (A)? Sayyidah Zaynab is Imam Husain's sister, and Sayyidah Sakina is Imam Husain's (A) daughter. They are both buried in Sham (Damascus) in Syria. Do you know what is happening in Syria now? It is like Karbala. The bad people want to ruin their shrines, but the good people who worked hard to be good and make Allah happy are fighting the bad men. We want to make sure we become better too, so that we are also able to help make the world better.

5. Optional: Afterwards, students can compile their own memory bags with these items, as a keepsake.

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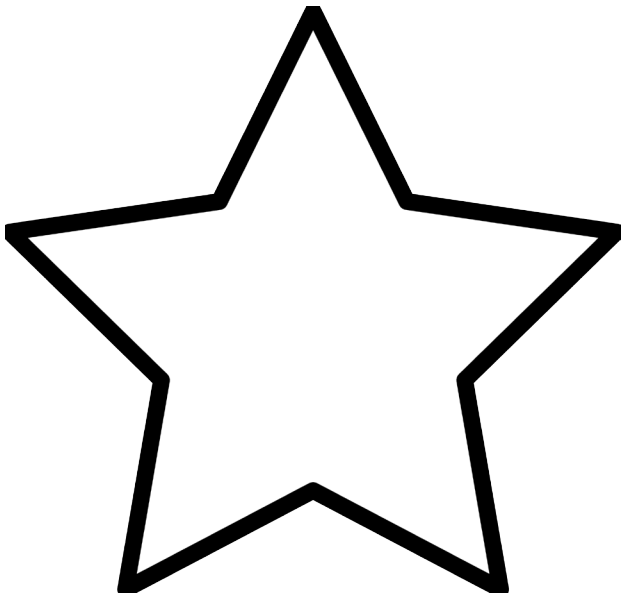
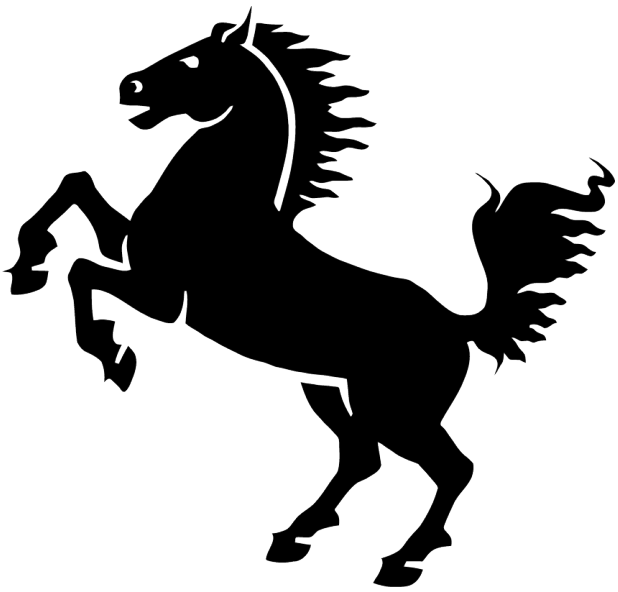




Project #3: Walking the Path

Objective: Students will learn about ziyaarah, the concept of tawassul, and seeking a connection with Ahlul Bayt.

Ages: 5+

Time: 40 minutes

Materials:

- Lantern template
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Scissors
- Glue or tape

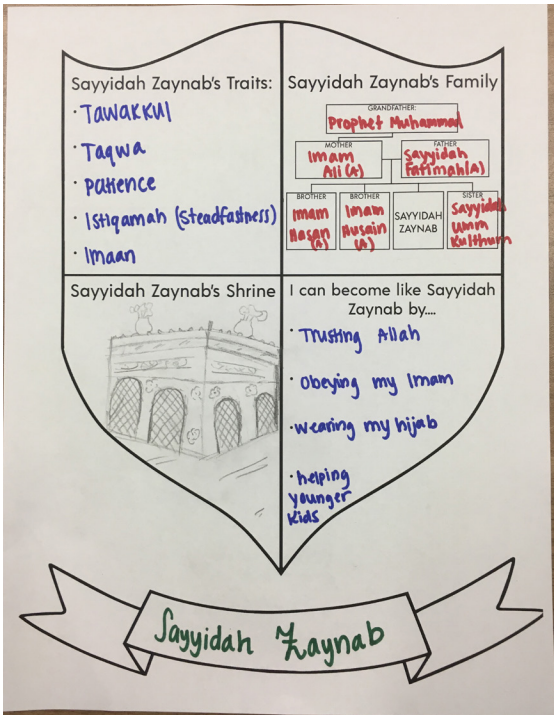
Procedure:

1. SAY: Did you know that throughout the year and especially on the day of Arbaeen, millions of people visit the Shrine of Imam Husain (A)? Do you know where the shrine of Imam Husain (A)? (Wait for answers)
2. SAY: Yes, Imam Husain's (A) shrine is in Karbala, Iraq! Why do you think people visit the grave of Imam Husain (A)? (Wait for answers.)
3. SAY: Yes, we visit Karbala to say Salaam to our Imam. Even though he is no longer alive, he can still hear and see us, so it is like we are visiting him ourselves! But to have the special honor to visit the Imam (A), you need a special invitation! Has anyone gone to visit Imam Husain (A) before? Would you like to go? (Wait for answers.)
4. SAY: Today, there are millions of people in Karbala. This is the largest peaceful gathering in the world! Nowhere else in the world do this many people join together. It is all out of love and to tell the world that truth will always win. Did you know that people actually walk to Imam Husain's (A) shrine?! Does anyone have any idea how far people walk (Wait for answers).
5. SAY: Those are all great guesses! The shortest distance that some people walk is about 50 miles, which is like walking from San Francisco to San Jose (Insert nearby cities based on your location)! It takes these people 3 days! Some people walk from even further cities, like Baghdad or Basrah, and this takes even more days! It's not easy to walk through the desert for so many days, but why do you think people do this? (Wait for answers).
6. SAY: Yes, exactly! They love Imam Husain (A)! They want to show their Imam (A) that they are willing to do *anything* for him, and that inshaAllah they will walk the path to reach him! Even though the rest of us cannot be in Iraq this Arbaeen to walk to our Imam (A), inshaAllah we can always walk in the path of our Imam (A). How do you think we can do this? (Wait for answers.)
7. SAY: Yes! When we make good choices, this makes our Imam (A) happy. When we help others, listen to our parents, or show kindness, we are, indeed, walking the path of Imam Husain (A). Let's all pray to Allah to always help us walk the path to Imam Husain (A). To help us remember this, we will be making special lanterns today!
8. At this time, pass out a lantern template to each child. They can color it and then cut out the line on the top of the paper to make a strip. Help them fold their lantern like a cylinder and then glue or tape it. Next, use the strip you cut out to make a handle.

I will walk through this life until I reach you O Husain (A)!

Project #4: Shield of Sayyidah Zaynab

Objective: Students will learn about the connection between Imam Husain (A) and Imam Mahdi (AJ). They will write letters to Imam Husain and will also send their condolences to Imam Mahdi (AJ).



Ages: 5+

Time: 30 minutes

Materials:

- Shield template (printed on white cardstock, attached)
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils

Procedure:

1. SAY: After the battle of Karbala, when the family of Imam Husain (A) were taken as prisoners, who helped protect the women and children? (Wait for answers).
2. SAY: Yes, that's right. Sayyidah Zaynab was the protector of the women and children. Do you think it was easy for her to be responsible for all the women and children and keep them safe? How do you think she felt? (Wait for answers.)
3. SAY: Yes, it must have been a difficult task. In order for her to take up such a hard job, she probably needed some special help. You see, Sayyidah Zaynab, and the rest of the Ahlul Bayt, were not like the rest of us. They had so much imaan — which means they had a lot of faith and belief in Allah. Because of this imaan, it was like they had a special shield that gave them the power to go through such difficulties. What are some tools you think Sayyidah Zaynab had to have in order to get this special strength and protect the others? (As students share answers, write them on the board.)
4. SAY: Excellent answers! Her tawakkul, taqwa, bravery, contentment, salaah, and many other good traits and actions acted as a shield that gave her strength to protect the rest. Today, we are going to make our own shields! You will see that your shield is divided into 4 parts. Here is what we will write/draw in each part:
   a. First part: List the traits that Sayyidah Zaynab had, which gave her strength
   b. Second part: Draw the family tree of Sayyidah Zaynab
   c. Third part: Where is Sayyidah Zaynab buried? Can you draw a picture??
   d. Fourth part: What can you do in your life to develop the same traits as Sayyidah Zaynab?
5. Pass out shields and help students complete each quadrant.

Sayyidah Zaynab's Traits:

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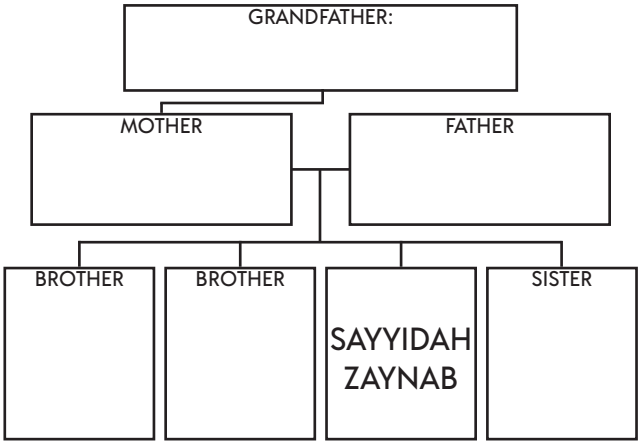
Sayyidah Zaynab's Family



Sayyidah Zaynab's Shrine

I can become like Sayyidah Zaynab by....

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